

Ranking Member C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Opening Statement
Mark Up – FY 14 Intelligence Authorization Act

Good Morning.

Before us today, is the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

Like the bills before it, this one is a good, bipartisan bill that gives our intelligence professionals the resources, capabilities and authorities they need to keep us safe, while ensuring our continued oversight of the Intelligence Community on behalf of the American people.

When Chairman Rogers and I took over leadership, we made a commitment to bipartisanship and to passing intelligence authorizations—which we have done 3 years in a row.

We could not have done this without the important input from Members of this Committee. We have all worked together in a bipartisan way, both Members and Staff. We may have different points of view, but we work together to support the men and women of the Intelligence Community as they work to keep our country safe.

We must keep this bipartisan spirit, and this streak, going. Passing these Authorization Acts keeps us relevant, and our relevance has allowed us to steer policies and persuasively engage the IC on its most sensitive and critical activities.

We are also facing tough economic and strategic times, so our budget curbs personnel growth and achieves major operating efficiencies, while making sure that urgent areas—like cyber, insider threat programs and our space architecture—get what they need.

I want to mention a few specific initiatives:

1. We need to take the long view when it comes to our overhead architecture, and I am pleased with how our bill advances technologies to enhance persistent capabilities. Snapshots need to give way to an unblinking eye, particularly as our adversaries learn to time their activities to avoid our gaze.
2. We need to continue to remove barriers to competition in space. Competition is what made our space program the global leader, and it is what will keep us surging ahead.
3. While we support the Defense Department's creation of the Defense Clandestine Service as a partner to CIA's National Clandestine Service, we need to make sure that DCS fulfills unique and unmet requirements in a coordinated and integrated way.
4. We need to further empower the IC "functional managers," those that have the responsibility across agencies over the various types of intelligence (likes signals intelligence or human intelligence).

5. We need to take a hard look at improving the security clearance process and its portability, while making sure our Government agencies can clear and accept interns from our best and brightest STEM students.
6. We need to ensure the continuous monitoring of those with security clearances, both for signs of espionage and for signs of public disclosures like what we saw with Edward Snowden. We need to guard against the insider threat.

We also have a good cadre of amendments that will be taken up today. I look forward to making a good bill even better.

Finally, let me just say thank you to our Staff. This markup would not be possible without your extensive dedication and effort.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

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